

FOUND FAME IN OTHER LANDS

GREAT BOOKS ABOUT NATIONS
WRITTEN BY FOREIGNERS.

French Masters of English Literature, an English Authority About the United States, Cromer in Egypt, Hearn in Japan, Best Histories by Foreigners.

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NEW BOOKS.

The Statesman's Year Book.

To all who have to do with foreign politics the new edition of this invaluable book of reference, "The Statesman's Year-Book" (Macmillan) will be welcome. This, the forty-seventh annual issue, is edited, as it has been for some years past, by Dr. J. Scott Keltie and Mr. L. A. P. Renswick. The British part is especially convenient at this time as it records the changes made by the accession of King George V. It also includes the statistics of the recent British census of production. The United States, as usual, follows immediately the accounts of the British possessions, while the rest of the world is lumped together. Attention is called to new information regarding China, the Sudan and South Africa.

The merits of "The Statesman's Year-Book" are so well known that it is needless to dwell on them; the countless changes in names and figures which the year has brought about have been made up to date, which in some instances is as late as May 31. We may mention the maps, which are yearly increasing in number; these include the Congo State, showing the portions that will be successively thrown open under the new Belgian law; British South Africa, the Federal district and capital of Australia, the railroads of South America, the proposed Scottish and Georgian Bay canals and the distribution of urban and rural population in the United Kingdom.

The World's Navies.

That Mr. Fred T. Jane's "Fighting Ships" (Sampson Low, Marston and Company, London) serves some useful purpose is shown by the fact that it is now issued for the thirteenth time. Its value for reference is increased in the 1910 edition by the inclusion of every craft that flies a national ensign, however antiquated or worthless, for the names and measurements of the big modern ships may be found elsewhere, whereas it is the small vessels of the lesser nations that usually get into trouble and into prominence.

The special feature of Mr. Jane's book is the illustrations and particularly the silhouettes of all vessels, showing the funnels, masts and other means of identification. Each class is accompanied by a condensed technical description that includes speed, dimensions, armament and so forth. The useful comparative tables of sea terms, rank, relative naval strength and such matters are continued. There are brief papers at the end on the development of seagoing battleships, on naval expenditure and on electrical power in warships, but the usual review of engineering is omitted owing to an accident. There is an interesting list of merchant steamers which might be utilized in war times, with their speed, tonnage and silhouettes. The number of photographs is very large, and there are besides plans of the chief warships of the world.

Information About Mexico.

The preface to "The Mexican Year Book, 1909-10" (Carr Brothers, New York) consists of President Diaz's latest message to Congress. The Year Book, which is published by the Department of Finance, has been admirably edited and supplies the information about the resources of the country in compact, businesslike form. Under each head the full text of the Mexican laws relating to the subject is given in English translation. An explanation of the currency, weights and measures, with statistics of population and area, is followed by a concise summary of Mexican history, with the Constitution, and explanations of the status of foreigners in the republic and of its foreign relations.

Next come an account of Government finance with the tariff, which is explained and commented on, and sections on banking, on railroads and public utilities, on agriculture, trade and mining follow and brief descriptions of the products peculiar to Mexico. It concludes with information about each of the individual States, accompanied by large scale maps of each, which are particularly desirable considering the paucity of Mexican geographical material in American atlases. A few more pages and maps to include.

"A Delight"

With its eighth volume, which ranges from "Infamy" to "L'apparent," "The Catholic Encyclopedia" published by the Robert Appleton Company is more than half completed. It is progressing rapidly now and Archbishop Farley's imprimatur bears the date June 1, 1910. The volumes as they have appeared have kept up the high standard of the first. In the alphabetical arrangement of the one before us the most important article is that on Jesus. Among the biographies are those of the pope who bore the name of Innocent, Julius and John, with the long list of saints and worthies of the last name. Joan includes the Maid of Orleans and the mythical pope, Jerome and Ignace of the Fathers are here.

The most important geographical and ethnographical names are Ireland and the Irish, Italy, the Israelites, Jews and Judaism, Jerusalem and Japan. The important religious orders and sects are the Jesuits and the Jesuitas. There are a full account of the Kulturkampf, a long article on inscriptions, a disquisition on labor, another on the Inquisition. Many other matters of moment dealt with at length are Infirmary, Investments, Justification and Jubilee. The illustrations and maps are as plentiful as in the other volumes. Catholics and non-Catholics alike will find this encyclopedia of the greatest use.

Other Books.

The British colonies vie with one another in presenting their attractions to the mother country. "The Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia, 1910," edited by G. H. Knibbs (McCarroll, Bird and Company, Melbourne) offers in its 1,200 closely printed pages a mass of statistical information regarding the new Commonwealth. This is stated to be authoritative for the years 1901-09, and to be corrected for the years 1908-1909. The book is illustrated with graphical charts and with many small maps of the continent for special purposes. It would be a good idea to include detailed maps of the new States and of important districts. Nearly everything touching on Australia will be found here, and so far as statistics can tell the tale the account is very full. There is an excellent index.

With volume IX, which includes the papers from 1819 to 1836 and an index to the whole set, the handsome edition of "The Writings of James Madison," which Mr. Gaillard Hunt has edited, is completed (G. P. Putnam's Sons). In a note Mr. Hunt explains that he has restricted himself to publishing the papers of historical and political importance; in an edition so elaborate and so extended

Unusual variety both of feeling and of the manner of its treatment is a mark of distinction. New York Times.

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The Territories would have made this part complete. At the end is an index.

The statements and figures are official; they are put concisely and arranged sensibly, rather rare qualities in official publications. The book tells nearly everything about Mexican conditions that the business man or the political student will want to know.

The Last Ten Years.

In preparing a supplementary seventh volume that should embrace the history of the last ten years for his valuable and convenient "History for Ready Reference" (the C. A. Nichols Company, Springfield, Mass.) Prof. J. N. Larned has departed so far from the plan of the original work that the volume might almost stand independently. The system of quoting extensively from other publications made this well nigh unavoidable, for so many economic and sociological matters have crept into recent histories that it would be difficult to piece together from them a purely political history, such as is comprised in the first volumes of Prof. Larned's work.

These matters, however, add to the value of a compendium of what has happened in the last few years for purposes of reference. Recent events are the most difficult to find in books, particularly since the publication of annual summaries seems to be dying out. A review of several years is very convenient, and the publishers might consider whether Prof. Larned's last volume could not be issued separately.

The political history of each State is continued with reference to the older volumes; it comes down late enough to record the accession of King George V. for instance. The economic and sociological articles are helped out by an elaborate system of cross references. They include articles on the trusts, on railroads, on labor, education, poverty, race problems, public health, municipal government, war and so forth. At the end the educational character of the "History" is marked by a set of fifty-five "courses of study," with the necessary bibliography for each.

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From an editorial in the New York Evening Post: "Society must sooner or later answer the question, 'What is to be done with our Meek?'"

GEORGE MECK
BATH CHAIR-MAN

By HIMSELF

With an Introduction by H. G. WELLS

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Mr. Wells has made in George Meek, the chair-man, a literary "discovery" not unlike Tolstoy's Timothy Bondareff. Meek is a remarkable man, an unskilled laborer, half blind and without physical strength to make a success of manual toil. Up to the age of forty-one he has earned a precarious living for his body by various sorts of casual employment, meanwhile feeding his mind richly on the literature of modern Socialism. His book is one of the sincere and genuine Autobiographies which appear at long intervals and command at once a place of importance by their absolute simplicity and courage. Mr. Wells' introduction is in his most brilliant manner.

From the New York Times: "Meek faced his poor life as it was, he tells about it as he found it, setting down quite simply his infirmities, his failures and humiliations along with his petty triumphs and petty consolations. There is no attempt at any absolutely disinterested all sense of humor, though he is cheerful and likes to sing."

From the Chicago Evening Post: "One finishes the book with a great admiration for George Meek."

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perhaps it might have been well to include everything. It is a worthy memorial to the father of the Constitution.

The addresses delivered at the memorial meeting in honor of Bronson Howard have been printed with a brief biography, some appreciations, some articles by him, and an account of his plays, in a small volume entitled "In Memoriam, Bronson Howard" (New York).

Some Summer Fiction.

Early impressions of the total depravity of medical students, derived chiefly from the study of the careers of Mr. Bob Sawyer and Mr. Ben Allen, had been dissipated by the experience that they differ little from students of the other learned professions, when Mr. H. De Vere Staepool comes with "The Bourgeois" and outdoes everything that has been written to throw discredit on that much abused class. In previous books Mr. Staepool has shown talent with streaks of poetry and originality; in this he has apparently determined to exhibit his versatility by surpassing some unknown model. It may be Mr. W. J. Locke in his "Vagabond" vein that he has in mind, it may be some new French combination of Anatole France and Paul de Kock grown cynical. At any rate "The Bourgeois," which is the title of a play, written by the hero, is an impressionistic sketch of bohemianism run wild told in the key of screaming farce. There is a Yale graduate of suppurative innocence, a proof of the author's total ignorance of the ways of Yale; there is the amiable hero who is attractive in spite of his eccentricities; there are various "Latin Quarter" types; there are some realistic studies in drunkenness; there is a fascinating mix. Mr. Staepool's chief fault is his wavering between fun or horseplay and pretty bitter sarcasm. His book will be found entertaining by readers who have a fairly good knowledge of French and of French customs.

The pretty story which Grace MacGowan Cooke starts to tell in "The Power and the Glory" (Doubleday, Page and Company) turns unfortunately into an

Continued on Eighth Page.

"ONE BRAVER
THING"

("THE DOP DOCTOR")

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